Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 10 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Sunday 11 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Friday 09 Dec 2022 at 12:30

Confidence: High for continuing cold and for becoming largely dry through Saturday, but lower for details of any snow showers and also cloud amounts.

Headline for Saturday 10 Dec 2022: Wintry showers at first, but clearing in the morning, then drier and brighter.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 10 Dec 2022

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow showers	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Clear night	Clear night
Precipitation probability							
60%	40%	50%	30%	10%	<05%	00%	00%

Forecast for Saturday 10 Dec 2022

Weather: Some wintry showers overnight, heaviest and most frequent in the west. Then a cloudy start with wintry showers and still a few heavy ones in west, but becoming drier and brighter in the morning. Some sunshine in the afternoon, but perhaps the odd snow flurry too. Dry with long clear periods in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance at first, but becoming 60% through the morning

Low cloud and visibility: Generally extensive cloud at first, above 400-600m, but breaking up through the morning to leave scattered occasionally broken cloud above 600m, though lowering to 500m in any showers. Mainly good visibility, but poor or very poor in showers and within cloud.

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Forecast for Saturday 10 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	5:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	11/13 S	8/10 S	6/7 S	5/6 SE	5/8 E	7/9 E	8/10 E	9/13 E	9/13 E
600	7/9 SW	6/8 S	5/7 S	3/5 SE	4/7 E	6/9 E	7/10 E	8/12 E	7/11 E
300	3/8 S	2/7 SW	2/5 S	2/3 NE	2/5 E	3/6 E	3/6 E	4/10 E	4/9 NE
Valley	2/5 NE	1/4 NE	2/5 N	3/6 NE	4/7 E	6/9 NE	5/8 NE	7/10 NE	6/9 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-9	-4/-8	-4/-8	-4/-7	-4/-7	-4/-8	-5/-10	-5/-10	-6/-11
600	-2/-6	-2/-6	-2/-5	-2/-5	-2/-5	-3/-6	-4/-8	-4/-9	-4/-8
300	-1/-3	-1/-3	-1/-3	-2/-4	0/-2	-1/-3	-3/-5	-3/-6	-3/-6
Valley	1/-1	1/-1	0/-1	0/-2	1/-1	1/-2	-1/-3	-0/-4	-0/-4
Freezing Level*	300m	300m	200m	200m	300m	200m	100m	00m	00m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Cold, with frozen surfaces persisting at all but the lowest levels. A significant chill effect, but winds mainly light. Some glare with the winter sunshine.

Forecast for Sunday 11 Dec 2022

Weather: Perhaps the odd snow shower, but mainly dry with clear or sunny spells, though any patchy freezing fog in the valleys will be slow to clear.

Maximum wind: East or northeast 5-10mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%, perhaps 30% in evening

Low cloud and visibility: Patches cloud above 600m, but risk of broken or extensive cloud down to 500m in evening. Generally very good visibility, but very poor in freezing fog at low levels and within any cloud later.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 4 C rising to zero or plus 1 C by day
At 800m: Minus 3 C
Freezing level: At all levels, perhaps rising to 200m later in day

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 9 December 2022. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:30. Full report: These ground conditions come with a health warning in that snow showers are currently forecast overnight, so walkers out on Saturday should be prepared to encounter more snow than experienced and described below. With overnight temperatures dropping below zero at all levels, patches of ice could occur anywhere. However, they were mainly found on drainage lines where there was a chance of a thaw/freeze with many paths, especially below 600m, being dry. Above 700m, and particularly above 800m, ground and rocks (including pitched footpaths) are covered by a mixture of frost, rime ice and just a skittering of snow although this has thawed, mainly below 850m, on aspects catching the sun, predominantly South and West facing slopes. Where the snow/frost remains, the main hazard continues to be the slippery nature of the ground and rocks especially on popular routes where it has been compacted forming isolated patches of ice – although these are currently rare. On steep and exposed terrain, such as both Striding and Swirral Edges, it is definitely necessary to concentrate on careful foot placement, especially in descent. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Extra clothing, though, is not just for safety, but also for comfort as the summit today was a place to don extra clothing and linger to enjoy the magnificent panorama – something those without extra layers did not do in the minus 10 degrees windchill ! Walking poles to aid stability on slippery paths could also be useful. For those heading above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes microspikes/crampons & an ice axe could be a sensible addition to the rucksack in case there is more ice and snow on Saturday compared with that experienced on Friday (note opening comment!) Hopefully sunglasses will also be essential equipment as they were today! Temperature: minus 3.5 C, Maximum wind speed 15.2 mph. Wind chill: minus 11.1 C, Average wind speed: 9.9 mph.

Issued at: 1230 on Fri 09 Dec 2022

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